

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02989 100415Z

15

ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1824

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UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2989

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NZ

SUBJECT: LEASE, CHARTER AND INTERCHANGE OF AIRCRAFT IN
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

REF: STATE 145425

1. NATIONAL AIRWAYS CORPORATION (NAC), NEW ZEALAND'S
GOVERNMENT-OWNED DOMESTIC AIRCARRIER, DRY-LEASED FOR 9 MONTHS
JEONE NEW BOEING 737 (MODEL 219-15 REGISTRATION ZK-NAQ) ON
JUNE 25, 1976 TO GUINNESS PEAT AVIATION OF SHANNON, IRELAND.
(DURING THE PERIOD OF THE LEASE THE NEW REGISTRATION IS
E1-BCC). GUINNESS PEAT AVIATION IN TURN IS WET-LEASING (WITH
A NEW ZEALAND CREW) THE AIRCRAFT TO NIGERIAN AIRWAYS LIMITED.
THE REASON FOR THIS TWO STAGE ARRANGEMENT IS THAT NAC, BECAUSE
OF NEW ZEALAND'S DISTANCE FROM NIGERIA, IS UNABLE TO HANDLE
MAINTENANCE, ETC. AIR LINGUS, WHICH OPERATES IN THE
AFRICAN AREA (AND WHICH IS A LARGE SHAREHOLDER OF GUINNESS PEAT
AVIATION LIMITED) CAN TAKE CARE OF THESE SERVICES. WHEN NAC
TOOK DELIVERY FROM BOEING OF THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION
IT HAD EXCESS CAPACITY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT WHEN THE
PRESENT LEASE TERMINATES NAC WILL BE ABLE TO INTEGRATE
THE AIRCRAFT INTO ITS DOMESTIC SERVICE.

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PAGE 02 WELLIN 02989 100415Z

2. NAC ALSO HAS A SPECIAL WET-LEASE TYPE CONTRACT

WITH QANTAS AIRWAYS TO OPERATE A FRIENDSHIP AIRCRAFT BETWEEN AUCKLAND AND NORFOLK ISLAND. THIS CONTRACT WAS DRAWN UP ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO AND IS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. THE AIRCRAFT RETAINS ITS NZ REGISTRATION. EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY MORE DETAILS ON THIS ARRANGEMENT IF THE FAA DESIRES.

3. AIR NEW ZEALAND (ANZ, NEW ZEALAND'S INTERNATIONAL CARRIER) HAS AN AIRCRAFT INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS (BA) WHEREBY ANZ DC-10'S OPERATING BETWEEN AUCKLAND AND LOS ANGELES ARE MANNED BY BA CREWS FOR A CONTINUATION FLIGHT FROM LOS ANGELES TO LONDON AND RETURN. THE AGREEMENT IS TO CONTINUE FOR 4 YEARS. IT WAS SIGNED MARCH 31, 1975. CAB HAS A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT, THEREFORE DETAILS ARE NOT BEING SENT IN THIS TELEGRAM. IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS DESIRED EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO SUPPLY IT.

4. ANZ ALSO HAS A WET-LEASE ARRANGEMENT WITH QANTAS AIRWAYS FOR THE OPERATION OF ANZ DC-8 AIRCRAFT ON THE ROUTES BETWEEN WELLINGTON AND SYDNEY, WELLINGTON AND MELBOURNE AND WELLINGTON AND BRISBANE. ABOUT 2,500 HOURS PER YEAR ARE LOGGED ON THIS LEASE. IT CONTINUES ON AN INDEFINITE YEAR BY YEAR BASIS. ONE PURPOSE IS TO MAINTAIN AN APPROXIMATE FIFTY-FIFTY CAPACITY BALANCE BETWEEN QANTAS AND ANZ ON THESE ROUTES. AIRCRAFT CONTINUE UNDER ANZ REGISTRY.
SELDEN

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